

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
LOS ANGELES REGION**

**CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ORDER NO. 9805959**

**REQUIRING THE CITY OF THOUSAND OAKS TO CLEANUP AND ABATE  
CONDITIONS OF WATER POLLUTION CAUSED BY THE RELEASE OF  
RAW SEWAGE FROM THE UNIT W SEWER PIPELINE INTO ARROYO CONEJO**

**(NPDES NO. CA0056294)  
(CI No. 4917)**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region, finds:

1. The City of Thousand Oaks (hereinafter called the City or Discharger), discharges treated municipal and industrial wastewater from the Hill Canyon Wastewater Treatment Plant (HCWWTP) under waste discharge requirements contained in Order No. 96-044, adopted by this Regional Board on June 10, 1996. The City owns, operates and maintains over 400 miles of wastewater lines in its collection system and the HCWWTP, a publicly owned treatment works (POTW) facility, located at 9600 Santa Rosa Road, Camarillo, California. This POTW provides sewer service to about 96,000 of 112,000 residents of Thousand Oaks.
2. On July 20, 1998, HCWWTP personnel reported a spill to the Office of Emergency Services (OES). Notification of this spill was forwarded to the Regional Board by OES on July 20, 1998.

On July 21, 1998, Regional Board staff made an inspection of the spill location and determined that the spill or release is continuing from the Unit W sewer line, one of two main sewer lines which conveys municipal and industrial waste to the HCWWTP, and was leaking raw sewage into the South Fork of Arroyo Conejo. This line accounts for two thirds of the normal flow to the POTW and is the same line that was the subject of a previous spill last February and subsequent enforcement action by this Regional Board.

The spill is apparently emanating from the seam between two pipes located in the streambed where the City repaired the line in February after the previous spill. The interim repair of the pipeline appears to have failed and raw sewage is now being released into the South Fork of Arroyo Conejo. The pipeline and extent of the release cannot be accurately determined until the pipeline is exposed for inspection and repair. The current rate of discharge is estimated to be 10 gallons per minute. At that rate of release, the pipeline is discharging 14,400 gallons of raw sewage into the receiving water every 24 hours. It is estimated that the City will be able to divert the stream by early on Wednesday, July 22, 1998, in order to access the pipe. The repair is expected to be completed in as expeditious a manner as possible after the diversion of the flowing stream to allow access to the pipeline.

3. A general contractor, retained by the City, is working on site to effect repairs.
4. A large section of the Unit W pipeline had been scheduled for replacement during Fiscal Year 1995-96 and FY 1996-97 in the City's Financial Plan. Had those repairs been made in a timely manner, this spill would likely have been avoided, since this spill appears to be directly related to the interim repairs made to the pipeline following the February release.
5. The City has had three other major raw sewage spills along different sections of Unit W, in the past 8 past years. The spill which took place from the 12th to the 14th of August 1989, discharged 800,000 gallons of raw sewage into the South Fork of Arroyo Conejo. The spill which took place from the 10th to the 15th of March 1995, discharged an estimated 12 million gallons of

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raw sewage into the South Fork of Arroyo Conejo. The spill which took place during February 1998, discharged an estimated 86 million gallons of raw sewage to the same stream.

6. The discharge of raw sewage is a violation of California Water Code Section 13385, and is contrary to the following requirements contained in Board Order No. 96-044:

Discharge Limitation I.A.1. (Page 6)

"Waste discharged shall be limited to treated municipal wastewater only, as proposed.";

Standard Provisions general requirement A.3. (page N-1)

"The discharge shall not cause a violation of any applicable water quality standards for receiving waters adopted by the Regional Board or the State Water Resources Control Board as required by Federal Clean Water Act and regulations adopted thereunder."; and,

Standard Provisions general provision B.5. (page N-2)

"Any discharge of wastes at any point(s) other than specifically described in this Order is prohibited, and constitutes a violation of the Order."

7. The Regional Board adopted a revised Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) for the Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties on June 13, 1994. The Basin Plan contains beneficial use and water quality objectives for the North and South Forks of Arroyo Conejo and other tributaries of Calleguas Creek, and for the Arroyo Santa Rosa ground water basin.
8. Surface water in Arroyo Conejo is beneficially used for municipal and domestic supply, groundwater recharge, freshwater replenishment, contact and noncontact recreation, warm freshwater habitat, and wildlife habitat.
9. This Order is an action taken for the protection of the environment and, as such, is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act in accordance with California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15321.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, pursuant to Water Code Section 13304, that the City of Thousand Oaks, shall comply with the following:

1. Cleanup and abate the condition of surface water pollution and threatened pollution caused by the release of raw sewage by implementing the following actions:
  - a. Complete an assessment to determine the extent of contamination originating from the sewage spill. Sample the receiving water per your *Monitoring and Reporting Program* CI # 4917, Receiving Water Monitoring Requirement V.B.2. (page T-5), for a spill or bypass event. Sampling shall be conducted to ensure that adequate sampling is being conducted upstream, at the source, and downstream of the release to clearly demonstrate the impact of the release on the receiving waters;
  - b. Immediately initiate a cleanup and abatement program. The cleanup of any remaining surface contamination and the abatement of impacts to downstream watershed resources shall take priority. Conditions downstream of the release suggest the availability of substantial nutrient materials over an extended period of time. The City shall investigate and determine if the presence of extensive algal blooms immediately downstream of the release may have been the result of a leak or seepage from the pipeline for a period prior to the reporting of the release on July 20, 1998;
  - c. Conduct activities specified in Items a and b above, as necessary, and report to the Executive Officer prior to July 31, 1998, or subsequent revised time schedules submitted to, and approved by, the Executive Officer as the work proceeds;

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- d. Submit daily progress reports detailing all activities implemented to correct the release. Following remediation of the release, reports shall be submitted to the Regional Board weekly. These reports must be in a letter format and faxed (and subsequently mailed) to the offices of the Regional Board at (213) 266-6856. The discharger may make application to change the frequency of reporting for approval by the Executive Officer; and,
- e. Submit a final report to this Board, describing all completed activities and results, when any phase of surface water cleanup and investigation is completed.

The investigation and cleanup program shall be directed and conducted by a registered civil engineer. The assessment of impacts to beneficial uses and the stream ecology shall be conducted by a biologist or other scientist possessing the necessary expertise.

- 2. This Order is not intended to stop or redirect any investigation or cleanup ~,. remediation programs ordered by this Board or any other agency.
- 3. This Order in no way limits the authority of the Board, as contained in the California Water Code, to institute additional enforcement actions or to require additional investigation and cleanup pertinent to this project. This Order may be revised by the Executive Officer as additional information on this project becomes available. Upon request by the City, and for good cause shown, the Executive Officer may delete or extend the date of compliance for any action required of the City, under this Order.
- 4. The Executive Officer is authorized to take appropriate action, pursuant to Sections 13268 and 13350 of the Water Code against the City, for any noncompliance with this Order including assessment of penalties in the amount of up to \$5,000.00 per day for each day on which any technical data requested by this Cleanup and Abatement Order is not submitted.
- 5. If the City of Thousand Oaks fails to comply with any provisions of this Order, the Executive Officer is authorized to request the Attorney General to take the appropriate action against the discharger, including injunction and civil monetary remedies, pursuant to appropriate

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California Water Code sections, including, but not limited to Sections 13304, 13350, 13385, and 13386.

Ordered by : \_\_\_\_\_  
DENNIS A. DICKERSON  
Executive Officer

Dated: July 21, 1998